August, 1991. Genuine demands and needs of States/UTs are always taken into consideration while making allocations.

Consumer movement in rural areas

*10. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have formulated a plan of action to take the consumer movement to the rural areas, for the benefit of the people and if so what are the details thereof;

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government for the speedy disposal of consumers' grievances and problems?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The Government are taking a number of steps to create consumer awareness in the country including the rural areas. Some of the steps are:—

(i) Encouraging formation of consumer organisations in rural areas;

(ii) Giving preference for financial assistance to consumer organisations working in rural areas for undertaking programmes for creating consumer awareness;

(iii) Distributing the Government journal "Upabhokta Jagaran" to the libraries upto block levels;

(iv) Broadcasting at a Weekly Programme "Apna Adhikar" from the commercial broadcasting stations of AIR and telecast of education programmes on Doordarshan;

(v) Giving preferences to the consumers organisations working in rural areas for the purpose of National Awards on Consumer Protection etc.

(c) Government has enacted and enforced the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 to provide speedy redressal to consumer grievances relating to defective goods, deficient services, unfair trade practices etc. The Act envisages three tier redressal agencies at the national, state and district levels to redress consumer grievances. Recently, Government has promulgated the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Ordinance, 1993 on 18.6.1993 which enables setting up of more than one District Forum in a district by the State Governments depending upon the work load.

Cat scan machines for ESI hospitals

*11. SHRI BRAHAMDEO ANAND PASWAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ESI Hospitals in the country do not have CAT scanning machines;

(b) whether Government propose to purchase CAT scanning machines for these hospitals; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and by when these machines are likely to be purchased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) For Cat scanning diagnostic facilities the cases of the ESI beneficiaries are referred to renowned medical institutions in the country and the expenditure, incurred is re-imbursed to the insured persons under the ESI Scheme. This arrangement has been found economical. Therefore there is no proposal to purchase Cat scanning Machines for the ESI Hospitals.

Collaboration with China in coal mining

*12. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Governments consideration for mining of coal in collaboration with China, if so, what are the details of such understanding;

(b) whether the joint venture production will be marketed exclusively to China or Government will have a free hand to market the coal; and

(c) what are the details of coal mines marked for joint venture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Presently there is no specific proposal under Government's consideration for mining of coal in collaboration with China. An Indian Coal Delegation visited China in November, '92 to study the Chinese coal mining industry. In view of the fact that China being the largest coal producer in the world with reported production of about 1140 million tonnes during the year 1992-93, most of which came from the underground mines, there is scope for mutual collaboration with China in the coal sector.

Exploring of coal mines in Bihar and Gujarat

*13. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR YADAV 'RAVI':

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have conducted research/survey to explore the possibility of coal mines in Bihar and Gujarat, particularly in Saurashtra and Surendranagar; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Geological Survey of India (GSI), who are mainly responsible for carrying out the regional exploration to locate the coal reserves available in the various parts of the country, have established a total reserves of 64371.75 million tonnes in the State of Bihar till 1-1-1993 out of which 28993.19 million tonnes are in proved category. Large scale coal mining is already being carried out in this State.

Total coal reserves found uptil now in Saurashtra region of the State of Gujarat has been estimated around 3 million tonnes. These deposits occur in very thing seams exploitation of which is not economically viable. In addition, occurrence of deposits of coal at considerable depths in Mehsana-Kalol areas of Gujarat has been reported during the course of exploration for oil by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC). Mining of these deposits is not considered technically feasible.

UN Conference on Chil Libour

*14: SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it was brought to the notice of the UN Human Rights Commission at their recent Vienna Conference, that more than 80 million children in the Indian subcontinent continue to languish in boncage, working for 14-16 hours a day in inhuman conditions and a demand was made to stop all UN aid to these countries where such practice exists;

(b) if so, what was the number of children indicated to be in bondage in India according to this report: and

(c) what was the Indian delegation's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) As intimated by Ministry of External Affairs the Vienna Declaration does not contain any refe-